

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A neutral, aqueous soluble β -glucan preparation which enhances host defense mechanisms to infection and does not induce an inflammatory response.
- 5 2. An underivatized, aqueous soluble β -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation which enhances host immune defense mechanisms without inducing detrimental side effects.
- 10 3. An underivatized, aqueous soluble β -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation having a high affinity to the glucan receptor on monocytes and which enhances microbicidal activity of phagocytic cells and the hemopoietic activity of monocytes, neutrophils and platelets.
4. An underivatized, aqueous soluble β -glucan composition in a triple helix conformation which is effective in mobilizing the hosts normal immune defenses.